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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /088 W
---------- 120475
R 301202Z MAY 75
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 940
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 185

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)
SUBJECT: ISSUES OF LOYALIST ARMY AND BRITISH WITHDRAWAL
ENTER CONVENTION DEBATE

REF: BELFAST 183

1. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ENDED FIRST SERIES FULL DEBATE MAY 29 WITH SOME PROGRESS ON RULES AND WITH PROCEEDINGS STILL GENERALLY COURTEOUS. ISSUES OF FORMATION SINGLE LOYALIST "ARMY" FROM COMBINED PROTESTANT PARAMILITARY GROUPS AND POSSIBILITY BRITISH WITHDRAWAL WERE INTRODUCED AND AFFECTED DEBATE.

2. IN FIRST VOTE OF CONVENTION, UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) MAJORITY CARRIED THROUGH RULE REQUIRING DAILY BUSINESS BE APPROVED BY COMMITTEE. VOTE WAS 42 TO 24 AGAINST OPPOSITION. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP), ALLIANCE PARTY AND UNIONIST PARTY NORTHERN IRELAND (UPNI). FOUR OTHER RULES APPROVED WITHOUT VOTE AND SDLP DROPPED OPPOSITION TO ONE OF THESE TO AVOID NECESSITY VOTE. ANOTHER RULE ADOPTED PROVIDES THAT FIRST THREE HOURS EVERY THIRD SITTING SET ASIDE FOR DEBATE ON
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MOTIONS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS WHICH NOT RPT NOT APPROVED FOR

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BUSINESS BY COMMITTEE.

3. THERE SPIRITED DEBATE ALONG SECTARIAN LINES OF RULE REQUIRING DAILY PRAYER FOR QUEEN AND ON ISSUES PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, LOYALIST ARMY AND, RELATED, POSSIBILITY BRITISH ARMY WITHDRAWAL FROM NORTHERN IRELAND. SDLP MEMBERS GERRY FITT AND SEAMUS MALLON INTRODUCED LATTER SUBJECT IN CONTEXT OF DIFFICULTY ACHIEVING "TRUST" IN CONVENTION IN LIGHT RECENT EVENTS. MALLON REFERRED TO CONVENTION MEMBERS CONSORTING WITH SUBVERSIVE EXTRA-LEGAL PEOPLE AND ACTIVITIES. FITT NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH IAN PAISLEY HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN PRESENT AT DINNER PREVIOUS NIGHT (REFTEL) SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES HAD BEEN. THESE INCLUDED COLONEL EDWARD BRUSH, GEORGE GREEN, WILLIAM CRAIG, HARRY WEST AND JOHN TAYLOR. COLONEL EDWARD BRUSH, LEADER OF 10,000 MEMBER DOWN ORANGE WELFARE GROUP REPLIED. HE SAID EXTRAVAGANT LANGUAGE HAD BEEN USED AT DINNER DANCE BUT OCCASION MADE MORE EMOTIVE BY REVEREND WILLIAM ARLOW'S STATEMENT. BRUSH SAID THAT IN RELATION ULSTER ARMY HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE UP ARMS SO LONG AS BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND ARMY DISCHARGED THEIR OBLIGATIONS. CONTINGENCY PLANS WERE IN CASE TIGHTLY-STRETCHED BRITISH ARMY HAD TO LOOK AFTER OTHER COMMITMENTS. OFFICIAL TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT BRUSH REPORTED SAYING ALSO "IF MR. LEO ABSE AND HIS FRIENDS OVERCOME OPPOSITION AT WESTMINSTER THERE MIGHT BE A RAPID WITHDRAWAL BY THE BRITISH." PAISLEY SAID POLITICAL LEADERS WHO ATTENDED DINNER WERE INVITED AND NOT RPT NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT SAID. HE NOTED OPPOSITE BENCHES WERE AWARE OF SERIOUSNESS FOR ALL SIDES OF THE COMMUNITY IF THE IRA HAD AN AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL BRITISH TROOPS IF CONVENTION FAILED - FAILED, PAISLEY SAID, IN OPINION OF WESTMINSTER.

SPICER

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